

DOCUMENT NO. 20
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. 1 ITALY

NSC BRIEFING

19 June 1957

~~DECLASSIFIED~~
CLASS. CHANGED TO: 1 S C
DATE 1-16-88
AUTH: 101702
REVIEWER: 372044

- I. On 18 June President Gronchi asked Christian Democratic (CD) secretary general Fanfani to form coalition government.
- A. Senate president Merzagora had given up "exploratory mission" when Christian Democrats and Liberals said they would negotiate only with a premier-designate.
- II. Fanfani, now 49, served in De Gasperi and Pella gov'ts in
- A. He is ambitious, able, strong-man/--CD majority faction, basically would like one-party gov't.
1. Tried unsuccessfully to form one in 1954.
- B. Visited US in '56 to observe national conventions.
- III. He faces serious difficulties in trying to end seven-week crisis.
- A. The three minor parties--Democratic Socialists, Republicans, Liberals--whose support is necessary, are divided on question of participation.
- B. If they agree to join, the new government will face same difficulties as Segni cabinet.
1. Democratic Socialists and Republicans are at loggerheads with Liberals on socio-economic issues
2. In addition, the small parties will probably make exorbitant demands for cabinet posts.
- C. But the minor parties may go along with Fanfani to avoid fall elections, having experienced losses in recent local elections.